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# VICKS MAGAZINE

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## Through Memory's Haze.

Through memory's haze I seem to see  
The dear old garden once again,  
And mother walks the paths with me  
As if untouched by death or pain.

Roses their old-time sweet still hold,  
Clove-pinks yet shed their fragrance rare,  
"Ladies' delights" their heads of gold  
Uplift, as if in silent prayer.

The red pæoniès glow and burn,  
Close rivals of the sunset skies;  
And "ten o'clocks" do sunward turn  
Ever their blue and wond'ring eyes.

Sweet Williams and the blue monk's-hood,  
"Daffies" and columbines grow fair;  
Sweet rosemary leaves, and southernwood,  
Red balm and camomile are there.

But best of all that memory brings  
Is mother's tender, loving face;  
My heart a happy child-note sings  
As her dear lineaments I trace.

Oh Memory! Thou art next of kin  
To Faith, which brings the next world near,—  
And, thus, the flowers of *what hath been*  
Are twined with buds of *may appear*.

BETH MAC.

## LEGEND OF THE RED LILY.

**T**HHE FOLLOWING North German legend will commend itself to those who are fond of inquiring why one flower should be blue and another yellow; above all why a lily with its very name suggesting to us a dazzling whiteness should have ever come in any variety to be red. The Crown Imperial, or Red Lily, was introduced into England from Constantinople three hundred years ago, and not long after its wondrous beauty so appealed to the sensibilities of the herbalist Gerarde, who kept large flower gardens, that he entered in his text book a full and most quaint description of the strangely tinted flower as follows:

"The floures grow at the top of the stalke in form of an imperial-crowne, hanging their heads as it were bels; in colour it is yellowish, with the back side of the floure streaked with purplish lines, which doth greatly set forth the beauty thereof. In the bottom of each of these bels there is sixe drops of most clear, shining sweet water, in taste like sugar, resembling in shew faire orient pearls; the which drops if you take them away, there immediately appear the like; notwithstanding if they may be suffered to stand still in the floure according to his own nature, they will never fall away; no, not if you strike the plant until it be broken."

Thus wrote the celebrated old plant grower; but it was reserved for those true lovers of flowers, the Germans, to gather to the lily the mystery and witchery of a legend, and in such a guise to tell us how this particular lily came to be red and

whence came the drops of dew in the crimson cup. So runs the story:

Once the Garden of Gethsemane was full of flowers of all kinds, and among them none so fair and queenly as the slender, stately lily, with all her clustering bells proudly upright. It was even-time and the Lord came to walk awhile in His garden. As He passed along, each gentle flower bowed before Him while He breathed the refreshment of the quiet hour upon them; but when He came to the lily her haughty head remained erect in the defiance of conscious beauty. The Lord paused and looked upon her. For a second she braved that bright,



mild eye of reproof, then slowly bent her silvery bells, while blushes swept in painful brilliancy over them. Still the Lord's gaze rested on her; lower sank her head, deeper burned her crimson; then tear after tear welled up in the lily cups. At this the Lord passed on.

When morning came, all the flowers lifted their heads and smiled to see the light; all but the lily, that once white queen among them. Her head remained bowed in shame, while to this day she blushes over her vanity, and the tears of repentance still sway in the delicate cups of the flower that refused to bend before the Lord as He walked in the Garden of Gethsemane at the evening hour.

JULIA A. ROBINSON.

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## SWEET-SCENTED PLANTS AND FLOWERS.

**A** BEAUTIFUL garden without sweet-scented plants and flowers is like a beautiful face without kindness. We may admire it, but we do not love it. In all the dear, old-fashioned gardens that we read of sweet-scented plants and flowers have an important place.

"John Halifax" and his young bride "Ursula," in Miss Muloch's story, used to spend many hours in such a garden, where, for perfume, were "large blushing cabbage roses, pinks, gilly-flowers, with here and there a great bush of southernwood, or rosemary, or a border of thyme, or a sweet-brier hedge, a pleasant garden, where all colors and perfumes were blended together."



"Eppie," the faithful, affectionate child who redeemed the life of the sad and lonely miser "Silar Marner," to whom George Eliot introduces us, wished only for a garden—a garden with sweet-scented plants—to complete her happiness. She said, "I'll have my bit o' rosemary, and bergamot, and thyme, because theyse so sweet-smellin'; but there's no lavender only in the gentlefolks' gardens, I think." The story of Eppie's garden is pleasant reading; we are glad to learn as we follow it that she had her slips of lavender, too, from "the big bed o' lavender at the Red House."

Happily in our own country every lover of "sweet-smelling" plants can have not only her "bit o' lavender," but a whole bed of the beautiful, feathery, sweet-scented plants, even without an "Aaron" to get it from the big bed at the Red House. No plant has a pleasanter perfume or is more suggestive of pleasant stories. In many old English tales lavender leaves have a place. The plant is not only pretty and fragrant, but useful in keeping one's clothing sweet, and, it is said, safe from moths.

Not only in stories, but in history, sweet-scented flowers have a place. Violets were the Empress Josephine's favorite flowers—the flowers Napoleon often gave her, and the flowers she loved far better than any of the grand and showy blossoms in the imperial gardens. Violets were associated with some of her happiest and her saddest hours. When her heart was full of painful foreboding, when she was tortured with thoughts of the divorce that she felt was before her, the day came on which, in happier years, the emperor had always given her violets. On that particular day he tried for a long time in vain to find some, and at last did succeed, but they failed to give the sorrowful empress pleasure.

"Take them away," she said, weeping, "I know they grew on a grave."

And, as the story goes, to reassure her, the old crone, who sold the violets, was sought for, and questioned; she confessed that she had found them on a grave, thus deepening the distress of the poor empress, who had far greater reason, than any she might find in the innocent violets, for believing herself near the grave of her happiness.

A small, sweet-scented flower fulfilled the wish of the great botanist, Linnæus, who said he would rather have a little flower named for him than have a great monument erected to his memory. The linnæa, his namesake, is a trailing plant with small leaves and little nodding flowers with a delicate fragrance. Linnæus was the first to describe the character of this plant, and it was an especial favorite with him. At an exhibition of flowers at the Horticultural Hall in Boston last year a specimen of this modest little plant attracted more attention than the large,

gay flowers near it. It is pleasant to think the linnæa is found in some of our own states as well as in Sweden, the home of Linnæus, and some other parts of Europe.

Not only in histories and in stories do we see the power of sweet-scented plants to give pleasure, but in our own experience. At the hospitals and in the asylums how often are the grand bouquets passed by for those of quieter beauty and more fragrance. "I want a bouquet with perfumery in it," the old ladies at the Home for Aged Women are sure to say whenever they are allowed a choice, and one tiny spray of lemon verbena has often given them more delight than the largest bouquet of showy flowers the box afforded. "Could you bring me a piece of lemon verbena next time?" or the milder suggestion, "How I wish I had a slip of lemon verbena!" are words often heard by the messengers from the Flower Mission. Even the common sweet fern that grows without cultivation in our fields is frequently preferred among the sick to a bunch of gay garden flowers without perfume. The sweet-scented bouquet not only gives pleasure at the time, but it leaves a lovely memory behind.

"This is the sweetest box of flowers I ever had," a lady once said, taking out as she spoke some lavender, thyme, lemon verbena, artemesia, rose geranium, heliotrope, mignonette and pansies. Months after she referred to her "sweet bouquet," that still lived, not only in memory, but in fact, several cuttings having been slipped; others, though dry, she found still retained much of their pleasant fragrance.

Their long life is another recommendation for many sweet-scented flowers. A girl leaving home wore a bunch of mignonette in her dress. At night she put it in water. Each day she followed this programme, and at the end of a week when she turned her face homeward she wore the same mignonette, which still retained much of its sweetness and beauty.

For beauty and fragrance and long life it is difficult to find a rival for carnations and pinks, a bunch retaining its charms for many days.

The fragrance of the pansy is delicate but pleasing. For many reasons no flower is more desirable. It comes early, it stays late, it blossoms continuously, it lives over winter, and the variety it offers is almost inexhaustible.

Roses we all desire. It is pleasant to think that one month, at least, in the year everyone who has a garden can have the joy of a rose bed. Most roses blossom only a short time and soon fade when brought into the house; nevertheless no garden is complete without the glory of the rose. That surely must have a place among our sweet-scented flowers and plants.

With those already mentioned, a row of sweet peas, a bed of sweet alyssum, and some lilies, an ideal summer garden is possible, which may follow the ideal spring garden of hyacinths, daffodils, jonquils and other early sweet-scented flowers. The sweet English violet we may almost call a winter flower, since if properly protected it appears before spring has really come.

After the summer garden which is beautiful in the autumn until the frost destroys it, comes the window garden, where we can have some of the same sweet-scented plants; so, if we will all the year round we can have a "bit o' beauty and fragrance."

EVELYN S. FOSTER.

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#### WINDOW AND VERANDA BOXES.

**B**OXES of flowers in front of windows and verandas give a cheerful aspect to the house, and this pleasant feature is now very commonly recognized. The use of these boxes is increasing from year to year, and it affords a means of raising flowers in many cases when otherwise there would be no opportunity to do so. The plants, if properly set in good soil, are easily cared for and grow and bloom freely. There are five points to which attention should be directed in order to secure the best results. These are:

1. The box.
2. The soil.
3. The plants.
4. The time of planting.
5. The after care.

The box should be from six to seven inches in depth and eight or nine inches in width inside, and as long as desired, or as room is afforded by the space it is to occupy. It can be made of one-inch pine wood, and if well painted with two coats of paint, outside and in, before using it will last much longer. No strong color should be used. White is not objectionable, but a dull brown is best. The bottom of the box should have holes bored through it for drainage. It is not best to place these holes in a direct line through the middle of the bottom board, as this would tend to weaken it and cause it to crack. Better to dispose them over the whole surface, placing them about six inches apart. Five-eighths of an inch is a good size for the holes.

The soil for a window box frequently causes more trouble than anything in connection with it. A good soil is necessary for success. It cannot be taken anywhere from a garden, or lot, or common, and be serviceable. In the country one can easily find the materials to compose a proper soil, but in the city it is quite difficult to do so, and it is in cities mostly that window boxes are employed. The easiest way is to send to a florist or a greenhouse and buy what is needed. And, if one does not mind the expense, all trouble can be avoided by sending the box, or boxes, and having them planted by the florist and duly returned. But those more economically inclined may



wish to do the work themselves, and it is for such that these instructions are given. A good soil can be made by taking some good garden loam, and as much more leaf mold from the woods, and another equal portion of sand. To every bushel of this soil add a pound of commercial fertilizer, and mix all well together.

The plants for the box must be in readiness when the time comes for planting them. Many ladies are so skillful in raising plants, both from seeds and by slips or cuttings that they can easily supply themselves in good time with all that are needed for the purpose. Among the plants most desirable for boxes are the following:

TO BE RAISED FROM SEEDS.

Ageratum of different varieties, Sweet Alyssum, Alonsoa, Fenzlia dianthiflora, Grammanthes genteanoides, Lobelia of different varieties, Maurandya, Mignonette, Mimulus of different varieties, Myosotis, Nolana, Nierembergia gracilis and N. frutescens, Petunias, Schizanthus, Thunbergia, Tropæolum or Nasturtiums, Sanvitalia procambens flore pleno, Torrenia Fournieri and T. Bailloni, and Verbena.

TO BE RAISED FROM SLIPS OR CUTTINGS.

Abutilon, Anthericum vittatum variegatum, Artillery Plant, Begonia, Coleus, Cuphea platycentra, Fuchsia, Geranium, Heliotrope, Ivy, English and German, Lantana, Manettia Vine, Mexican Primrose, Madeira Vine, Othonna, Vinca major variegata.

From these lists selections can be made, according to taste and experience. Very simple, but very handsome boxes of flowers can be made with only one kind of plant, though of different varieties, such, for instance, as nasturtium, or of petunia. Usually a greater variety is preferred, with some of the plants to be erect growing, as abutilon, geranium,

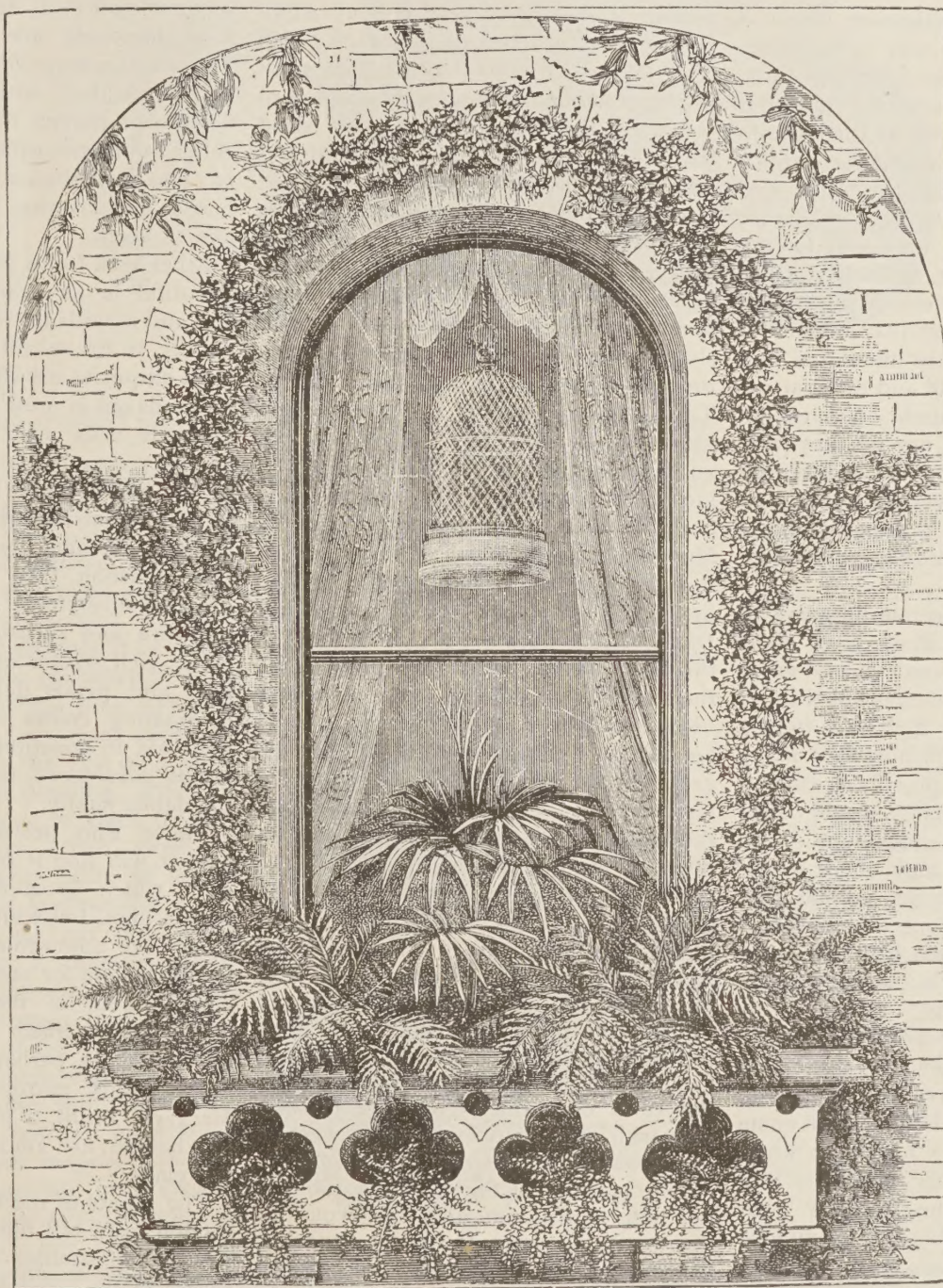
begonia, heliotrope, etc., and others of a spreading habit, as sweet alyssum, mignonette, schizanthus, and Tom Thumb varieties of nasturtium, and others of a drooping habit placed at the front of the box to trail over the side, such as maurandya, thunbergia, ivy, othonna, vinca, and varieties of tropæolum majus, etc. And another variation consists in introducing a few plants with variegated foliage, such as Abutilon Souvenir de Bonn, handsome leaved varieties of

locality. In all of the northern and eastern states it is not safe to put the plants out until the latter part of May, so that if placed in the boxes by the first of May, or soon after, in the house, they will become established and be ready in good time to go outside. In filling the soil into the box, preparatory to planting, be sure and place a piece of broken crock, or something similar over each drainage hole; this will prevent the soil filling it up and keep the outlet free for the

passage of water. The propagation of all the plants must have been attended to early in the season to have them strong and thrifty at the time for their final transplanting to the boxes. By the time the boxes are ready to be placed outside the plants should be in good growing state, and about the only care afterwards will be supplying them daily with the necessary water. The evening is the best time for watering, but in very warm weather water must be given both morning and night. If insects should appear on any of the plants they can be destroyed with a solution of tobacco soap applied with a syringe or sprayer.

Nearly all flowering plants love the light and the sunshine, and exposure to the south or the east is best, and one to the west is but little inferior. If one has only a northern exposure, yet a good stand of plants can be had

there; it is only necessary to select such as will best adapt themselves to the situation. Here ferns and selaginellas can be well grown, and dracenas and variegated leaved plants, such as Anthericum vittatum variegatum, and variegated vincas and a few fuchsias and monthly roses. These will make a charming combination and be quite as admirable as a greater variety of flowering plants, while at the same time they will be much more rare.



coleus and Anthericum vittatum variegatum and Thompson's variegated abutilon. The selection of varieties to be used should be made weeks or even months in advance, and should be carefully studied and due preparations made for having them in proper vigorous condition at planting time.

The plants should be set in the boxes about two weeks before the time of putting the boxes in place on the outside, and this will be determined by the



### ROMANCE IN VEGETABLE LIFE.

ROMANCE is not confined to human experience, as many a clever storyteller has indicated in tales of devotion shown by dogs for their masters, or by many of the brute creation for their mates. But how could there be any romance in the humdrum, monotonous life of a plant? Who could find any excitement in the experience of growing fast to one spot and simply spreading out to the light above ground and to the moisture beneath?

But even in such an existence, monotonous as it seems to be, may be found the elements of a most exciting romance. For plants, in fact, there are quite the same vicissitudes of life as for animals and for man. Food, shelter and warmth are just as essential for vegetation, and though man sometimes thinks that of all creatures he alone must toil for the necessities of life, yet, if he would but rise a little above such self-commiseration he would easily discover that a bountiful Creator has been quite as mindful of him as of the lily of the field and the sparrow of the air. These dumb creatures of nature toil not, indeed, nor do they spin, in the sense in which man labors, too frequently only that he may waste; and yet with them the law is as inexorable—"He who will not work, neither shall he eat."

Plants have many wonderful ways of helping themselves. They have their enemies to fight, both animal and vegetable, so life for them even is not without its battles. They have their race to perpetuate, and in accomplishing that many wonderful devices are practiced, which if followed by rational beings would be regarded as decidedly ingenious. The maxim seems to hold high honor in the vegetable world, as in the animal, that "all things are fair in love and war." This condition should certainly give sufficient occasion for romance, and so, indeed, we shall find.

Most plants do their wooing by proxy. What can be more romantic than that? They set a dainty morsel for any tramp of a bee or other insect that might come along, and even go so far as to array themselves in the most gorgeous costumes, and to breathe out the most delicate perfumes, all that this proxy love of theirs, the happy bee or fly, may be pleased to call and bear away, though all unawares, the treasure of pollen to the true love wherever she may be tempting the same bee with a like delicacy. What anxious waiting, and nodding, and beckoning in the sunshine! What hoping that some passer-by may be enticed to pause but for a second on the velvety door-step!

One such romance out of hundreds that have interested me I will here relate. It is a story of life, love, imprisonment, death—a romance with all the elements of comedy and tragedy combined:

Out on the western plains there grows quite a stately plant. Indeed so commanding and attractive is its appearance that it may occasionally be found in the door-yards of civilization. I refer to the common yucca or Spanish bayonet. Its life history is very intimately intertwined with that of a nocturnal moth which serves as messenger between a gallant knight and his fair lady-love. Each flower of the yucca opens for but a single night, and that only when the stamens are ripe, producing a mass of viscid pollen. The large, open, creamy white bells give off a delicious fragrance which attracts the *Pronuba* moth. This moth has its mouth parts especially adapted to collecting the pollen into a good sized ball which it holds under its head and carries to some neighboring flower. However, before relieving itself of its load of pollen the insect punctures the ovary, or seed vessel of the flower with its ovipositor and deposits its eggs. This done, the moth climbs to the funnel-shaped stigma and very carefully places the ball of pollen in the sticky funnel. The pollen germinates at once, sending little threads down into the ovary of the yucca flower, where they come into contact with the ovules or rudimentary seeds and stimulate them to rapid growth. Meanwhile, on the fourth or fifth day after this clandestine circumvention of the limitations of space set by prim old Dame Nature between the yucca flowers, the larvæ of the messenger moth leave their shelly casements and forthwith begin to satisfy their voracious hunger by feeding on the juicy ovules. When each grub has devoured about twenty of the undeveloped seeds, it gnaws a hole through its prison wall and lets itself down by a tiny thread or web to the ground, burrows beneath the soil and encases itself in a cocoon. In this condition it remains until the next summer. About two weeks before the yucca is in full bloom the insect begins to get ready to leave the pupa stage, and by the time the flowers are well open, it emerges from the ground a winged moth of much the color of yucca petals and is soon busy with its mercurial mission, as were its ancestors before it from time immemorial.

The progeny of the *Pronuba* moth is not sufficiently numerous to devour all the young seeds in the yucca capsules, and thus a good many receive fertilization by the aid of this insect, ripen and are scattered abroad to perpetuate the species.

The yucca has been successfully grown in countries foreign to its habitat, but never develops seed under those circumstances for the reason that the proper moths are wanting to convey the pollen from flower to flower. There are some species of yucca which fail to ripen seed even in their native growth, presumably because the particular species of moth adapted to them is rare or possibly quite extinct.

E. B. KNERR.

### THE DAHLIA FOR FINE EFFECT.

FOR stately beauty, perfection of form, and rich and dazzling color effect, no flower can surpass the dahlia. It is a veritable queen of autumn, and is in the height of its glory during September and October; but will begin flowering in mid-summer, if tubers are started early. While many other flowers are fading and dying, it blooms on, increasing in beauty, week after week, until the frost king closes the dahlia show. This flower, so justly popular, is divided into several sections, and each distinctively beautiful. Most imposing are the Show Dahlias. These make magnificent specimens—tall and branching, with immense, showy flowers of perfect form, and ranging in color from pure white on through pinks of loveliest shades, flesh, fawn, lilac, scarlet and crimson to deepest maroon, almost black.

Ethel Vick forms the pearl of this class. Beautiful in its symmetry, luxuriant in size and abundance of blossoms, its rarest quality is its delicate hue—the softest, most exquisite sea-shell pink imaginable. It stands out in most beautiful relief when grouped with such beauties as Anna Warner, creamy-white shading to flesh, or the pearly white Snow Cloud; or for striking contrast with Startler (rightly named), Pioneer, or John Lamont, all dark maroon. We find not only the greatest diversity of colors in this class, but rare and pleasing combinations of color; rich shades with vari-colored centers, and petals delicately tipped with contrasting colors or with white, lend their aid in constituting this branch, all points considered, the most charming of the dahlia family.

Those who prefer a more compact growth will find it in the dwarfs or bedders, which grow only about eighteen inches high, but with flowers of full size. These are admirable plants for exposed locations, and for sections subject to high winds. Gem of the Dwarfs, a white-tipped red, attracts admiration at sight; Goldfinder is, perhaps, the best yellow; Sambo, dark maroon for contrast, and Margaret Brunt, a pure white and excellent bedder, are among the best types of this class.

The plants of the Pompon or Bouquet section grow tall like Show Dahlias, but with much smaller flowers—diminutive copies of the larger in perfection of form and color. They bloom most profusely, yielding a mass of color which includes some of the most unique combinations, and desirable self colors, found among dahlias of any class.

Darkness, almost black; Janet, a salmon of richest shade; Isabel, bright orange-scarlet and a free bloomer; Profusion, a free-blooming, white-tipped crimson; Little Leopold, a rich, deep pink; all are lovely and widely different, affording a charming variety; but the



collection will not be complete without Lady Blanche, a beautifully quilled, pure white, with long stems, making it doubly valuable for cutting.

Cactus Dahlias, with their sharp-pointed petals, and colors of exceptional richness, are universal favorites. Baron Schröder is a grand imperial purple and very free flowering. Mrs. Tait is a distinctive member of this class, having serrate petals, and pure white in color; added to this, it is of large size, making it an especially desirable plant for decorative purposes. Charming Bride, is white with petals pink-tinted, a lovely flower for cutting, and Black Prince, arrayed in dark velvety maroon (black at a distance) might well be styled the Prince of Darkness, or prince of the collection; Kyneth, a superb vermilion and free bloomer; it will please all for dazzling effect.

In favored localities the tubers may be planted in the ground as soon as the weather becomes warm and settled. Cover the stem about three inches, and if any shoots start, thin them out to one or two—two for strong tubers. In northern localities the tubers should be started early, or they will be cut down by frosts while in the height of their blooming season. Start any time from about the middle of March to the first of April, or as soon thereafter as possible. Place the tubers in cold frames to start, or plant them in large boxes of rich, loose soil, and keep in a warm place to sprout. After the middle of May remove to the open ground, leaving but one strong shoot to each root; I sometimes leave two for a short time, and then remove one, leaving the stronger, in accordance with the "survival of the fittest." Some growers cut the tubers into pieces corresponding in number with the number of eyes or shoots, but my experiences proves that the more support in the way of tuber, the stronger will be the plant. The shoots which are removed will root quickly in wet sand, like cuttings, and make fine blooming plants the same season. In light, sandy, or porous soil, plant deep, cultivate often, and mulch in dry weather. If a number are planted, set at a distance of three feet apart each way. Give them strong stakes driven well into the ground, tie the plants securely, else when loaded and top-heavy with bloom, they will be snapped off close to the ground by the first heavy wind they encounter.

As to location: I have grown beautiful specimens in deep tubs, two or three

finely contrasting or harmonizing colors (as you fancy) to a tub. Put a layer of large pebbles, broken crockery or charcoal in the bottom, above this a layer of moss or fibrous material, followed by a layer of well rotted fertilizer. Fill with a rich, loose soil, largely leaf mold or well rotted sods. Care must be taken to give plenty of water; never let them suffer for



SINGLE AND DOUBLE DAHLIAS.

lack of it if you want fine, perfect flowers. They are gross feeders, and will drink quantities of it, and if liquid manure is given them, after the buds set, the increased size and brilliancy of the flowers will richly repay the extra care. They delight in frequent showerings, always after the sun leaves them. A sunny, open exposure best suits their requirements,



CACTUS DAHLIAS.

and yet I have in mind a magnificent bed as to size of plants, richness of bloom in both size, color and profuseness, which was situated on the north side of a residence, and about six feet removed from the wall, where it received a fair amount of sunshine both morning and evening. The plants are sometimes attacked by a brown worm or borer, which may be readily located by

the wilting of the foliage on the branch attacked. Cut a slit in the stem at this point, following up until the worm is found, watching closely, for they are active little fellows, and have a way of squirming out and dropping upon the ground, where they are not easily found because of their color. Remove the wilted portion of the branch. The work

of dislodging this pest must never be delayed, for if it reaches the main stem the plant is ruined.

In the fall, before hard frosts, cut the tops off within three inches of the ground, and take up the tubers. Partially dry them in the shade, and store in a cool cellar free from frost. They may be kept in heavy paper bags, in dry sand, or between layers of dry earth. They must not be kept too moist, or

decay will set in, nor too dry, else they will become so shriveled that they will fail to sprout.

Dahlias may be grown from seed, which germinates in a few days. Seeds carefully hybridized will produce a large percentage of fine, double flowers. The single varieties are mostly liked for cutting; they are self-colored, fancy-striped and tipped, spotted, and in short show a perfect abandon as to color. As soon as the seedlings show a third leaf, transplant to thumb pots plunged in wet sand. Never allow them to become dry or root bound. Shift to larger pots if they crowd for root room. The seeds should be sown in February, or not later than the first of March. Transplant to open ground when weather permits. We will simply say in this connection that tubers are more desirable for different reasons, the chief one being that when one plants a named or known variety of tuber he knows precisely what the harvest will be.

MRS. A. H. HAZLETT.

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#### FROST DAMAGING PLANTS.

As the warmer weather is coming on we shall soon be able to see what damage has been done in our gardens by the low temperatures that have prevailed at different times, the past winter. Undoubtedly some tender subjects have been injured. Roses that have not been thoroughly protected will almost surely be found with more or less dead wood, even if left alive. The parts should be cut away below the dead line. This advice applies equally as well to injured plants of raspberry and blackberry. But the most trying time in the garden may be yet to come, for May is an anxious month, as we are almost sure to have some frosts after vegetation is started. Straw, leaves, litter of any kind should be kept handy for protective purposes when frost is threatening.



## Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK.

### Potato Scab and Corrosive Sublimate.

I have been thinking for some time of writing to tell you how our potatoes came out after soaking the seed in corrosive sublimate. They have not been as smooth in a long time. Of course the season was very favorable, but I believe the soaking was what helped them. They were not all entirely smooth, but a great proportion were, and but few were very bad. Maggie Murphy yielded finely, some of them weighing two and one-half pounds each, and all large and of fine quality.

MRS. E. L.

Bridgewater, N. Y.

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### Morning Glory—Ballhead Cabbage.

Can you tell why I fail to make hardy morning glories grow? I have bought them several times and could not start them.

The Danish cabbage is the heaviest of its size and the finest we ever raised.

E. C. G.

Berlinville, O.

There is no trouble about making morning glories grow. Sow the seed in a drill an inch deep, and cover, and it will not fail.

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### Paris Daisies.

Can you give me some information about the culture and propagation of Paris Daisies—Madame Gaillard and Etoile d'or. Are they perennials? Do they need the roots protected during the winter?

Hope Hull, Ala.

MRS. A. H. C.

These varieties of chrysanthemum frutescens are perennials. Here they are greenhouse plants. Whether they would stand the winter in Alabama with or without protection we do not know. This can be learned by trying. The plants are propagated by cuttings, are free growing in good, light soil.

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### Little Gem Calla.

In your MAGAZINE you requested all those who purchased a Little Gem Calla from you to report the result. Well, I was one of the fortunate, or rather unfortunate, ones. I got one three years ago, but was too late to get one of your own plants. It has never blossomed yet. It has three or four leaves, some times they are not a foot long; just now it has one twenty inches long. Do you think it will ever blossom? I gave it fresh soil twice, water it most every day and occasionally give it liquid manure.

Custar, O.

MRS. F. W.

The plant is becoming stronger and in time will bloom—perhaps next winter. This summer plant it out in the garden. In September take it up and pot it in rich soil and take it into the house.

++

### Good Field of Potatoes.

Seeing Mr. Stewart's test of the Maggie Murphy potato leads us to give our experience with it. In the spring of '93 I bought a half bushel of Maggie Murphy potatoes, planted one peck, and sold one. I raised a beautiful crop of smooth, nice potatoes, weighing from one-fourth to two pounds each, and yielding 200 bushels to the acre. In '94 the yield was about the same; they were planted on an old garden of black soil. In '95 we changed our residence to Cherry Valley, and there planted a quarter of an acre, on the 15th of May, on an old garden of gravelly soil; gave it a light coat of horse manure and coal ashes. It was very dry here and the plants were a long time coming up, but after they got up I never saw anything to beat their growth. I dug from the quarter acre seventy-eight heaping bushels. I presume they would measure eighty-five bushels. Every person that has looked at them, and there has been a great many, says he never saw such large potatoes as those. The largest weighed three pounds, and I presume one-half of them would

weigh from two pounds to two pounds ten ounces, and from that down to a quarter pound. My wife took out fifteen potatoes for their beauty. The fifteen weighed twenty-eight pounds. The yield was 312 bushels to the acre. The Early Ohio yield was enormous—275 bushels to the acre, the tubers being large and handsome. Who can beat this for a true potato story?

E. P. D.

Cherry Valley, N. Y.

++

### Polyantha Rose and Other Plants.

The little polyantha rose, Mignonette, that you sent me two years ago made a very slow growth, and is now not more than six inches high. It had one bud in December which, from some cause, failed to open. But now on one stock it has ten buds that I am nursing carefully, sprinkling them every day, and have just been putting powdered charcoal and phosphate in the dirt, and I am in hopes they will not fail to open, as they are growing finely.

A friend gave me a Primula obconica last fall that blooms constantly. I also have a crimson and white Lady Washington that is a constant bloomer.

Bridgewater, N. Y.

MRS. E. L.

Without growth of a rose one cannot expect bloom. Now that the plant is growing it will not fail to bloom. The little polyantha roses of different varieties are all that is claimed for them and will not fail, with proper care, to give full satisfaction.

Primula obconica is a very free blooming window plant and should be more generally cultivated as such.

++

### Columbian Raspberry—Clematis Paniculata.

I desire to add my testimony to the many good qualities of the Columbian Raspberry. Last year I ordered one plant; when it arrived I divided it, making two sets. Each one grew vigorously and produced a good handful of the best raspberries conceivable, and canes, by actual measurement, fifteen feet and six inches in length of longest. The berries remained on the vine several days after ripening, but they neither dropped off or dried up, and retained their full measure of plump, juicy richness.

My Clematis paniculata, also ordered at same time, made eight feet of growth with hundreds of blossoms. Can any one report more success for a first season?

J. K. L.

Elizabeth, N. J.

The plants above mentioned are certainly remarkable, but with ordinary care they prove just as valuable in all localities. No garden should be without them. A good mate for the Columbian Raspberry is now offered in the Rathbun Blackberry, a fruit unequalled of its kind. We have no hesitation in recommending it, and as soon as it becomes known we shall have no occasion to do so, for those who try it will make known its merits when they have raised the fruit.

++

### Perpetual Hyacinths.

A lady in the village ordered a few hyacinths a year ago and kept the bulbs dry until February, under the impression that they were not to be planted till spring. Learning her mistake she potted them in earth about the last of the month, and they bloomed nicely just before Easter. After flowering they were allowed to dry off, but were not removed from the pots, which remained in the cellar all summer. Seeing some signs of life in them lately she put them in the window and the first week in December they bloomed again. Are we to suppose they will flower again eight months from that time? If not, why not? I am not an expert in hyacinths, in fact, except the little *H. campanulatum* I never have grown them at all, so the things I do not know about them are probably numerous, but I never heard or read of such a thing before. I thought the hyacinth bulb was badly crippled after once blooming, and was then to be put in some out-of-the-way corner where it might flower again, or it might not.

E. S. G.

There is nothing unusual with these

hyacinths. The bulbs will bloom for a number of years, but the flowers and flower-spikes gradually deteriorate. The bulbs are expected to be in their prime when offered for sale, and from that time their course is downward, though, left in the garden, they may give flowers for cutting for several years.

++

### Plants For North Windows—Freesias.

Please tell me what plants do well at a north window?

Also how to treat freesias? I bought some bulbs last October and planted them immediately. They soon came up and are long, tender weak leaves, doing no good. Buds appeared several weeks ago, but are no larger than when I first noticed them.

Wolcott, Ind.

F. B.

For a north window it is best to select palms, ferns, *Aspidistra lurida*, and variegata, *Cyperus alternifolius*, *Anthericum vittatum variegatum*, handsome leaved begonias, and then bring to it a fuchsia, an azalea, a lily, or hyacinths and tulips, or other blooming plants that have been brought into bloom elsewhere, and which can remain in the shade until their beauty is past.

Our space will not allow to be given here a long account of the treatment of freesias which, however is quite simple. When potted in the fall they want a temperature of only about 60° and plenty of air and light, with water as needed. The plants described by F. B. have evidently been kept too warm, and without air, and perhaps not in sufficient light.

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### Calla Ethiopica and Its Foliage.

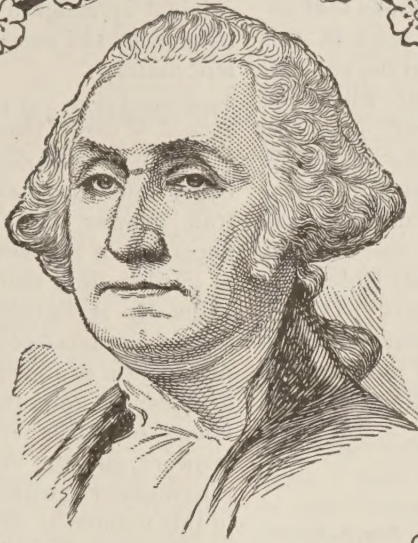
I was very much surprised on reading your last MAGAZINE to see the statement regarding the health of callas. I have grown callas for fifteen years and always had the best of success with them; and the oldest leaf always begins to decay when the new one is unfolded; each separate bulb never having more than four leaves at one time. When a plant gets ready to bloom, a separate plant is formed, or the old divides and the plant then has six leaves. If mine have been unhealthy I do not understand why they grew so rank and bloomed so well. It would certainly be beautiful to see all the leaves remain, but I do not believe it is their nature to remain green after a certain time.

Mrs. D. R. K.

Bellevue, Neb.

There is no doubt that the callas of Mrs. D. R. K., as described, are fine, healthy plants, nor will anyone say that the old leaves do not die off. The inquiry of E. V. A. in the March number was supposed to imply that few leaves were made and that, instead of remaining in health, they quickly perished and that the plant was struggling to supply itself with foliage sufficient to maintain life. Perhaps it was not intended that such should be the inference, but, if not, there is little point to the question. We now have calla plants having from three to eight strong, healthy leaves from each separate tuber. New leaves are forming all the time and gradually the old ones die. We have numbers of plants producing three or four flowers from a single tuber and without any division. We have also plants making several crowns to the same tuber and flowers are sent up from each crown.





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***George Washington***

It will be the man Washington—the son, the husband and neighbor—that will be presented in three popular articles by General A. W. Greely. No history will be interwoven. Washington will stand alone—not as a General, Statesman nor President, but as a man, showing his religious, moral and domestic side. One of the many features for 1896 in

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\*\*\*

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A twenty-eight-page illustrated pamphlet, tells the story of how forty bright girls won their college course and education in music, without expense. It will be mailed FREE to any girl sending her address to

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ROCHESTER, N. Y., APRIL, 1896.

Entered in the Post Office at Rochester, N. Y., as second class mail matter.

*Vick's Monthly Magazine* is published at the following rates, either for old or new subscribers.

These rates include postage:

One copy one year, in advance, Fifty Cents.

One copy twenty-seven months (two and one-fourth years), full payment in advance, One Dollar.

A Club of Five or more copies, sent at one time, at 40 cents each, without premiums. Neighbors can join in this plan.

**Free Copies.**—One free copy additional will be allowed to each club of ten (in addition to all other premiums and offers), if spoken of at the time the club is sent.

All contributions and subscriptions should be sent to Vick Publishing Co., at Rochester, N. Y.

#### ADVERTISING RATES.

\$1.25 per agate line per month; \$1.18 for 3 months, or 200 lines; \$1.12 for six months, or 400 lines; \$1.06 for 9 months, or 600 lines; \$1.00 for 1 year, or 1000 lines. **One line extra charged for less than five.**

All communications in regard to advertising to Vick Publishing Co., New York office, 38 Times Building, H. P. Hubbard, Manager.

**200,000**

Average Monthly Circulation.

#### W. Brown Smith.

Mr. W. Brown Smith, a well known nurseryman, of Syracuse, died in the early part of March. He had been in the nursery business for many years as the head of a firm of much prominence. He was an enthusiastic horticulturist and an active member of the Western New York Horticultural Society, and was present at its last meeting in January. Although he lived to an advanced age he lost no interest in his favorite pursuit, and his death is felt as a personal loss by all with whom he was associated.

\* \*

#### William Falconer.

Pittsburgh is to be congratulated that it has succeeded in obtaining the services of Mr. William Falconer as superintendent of its parks. Mr. F. is one of the ablest horticulturists in this country, a practical and skillful gardener, an able writer, an efficient organizer and a genial, pleasant gentleman. We spent a charming hour with him last autumn at Glen Cove, L. I., on the interesting grounds of Charles A. Dana, Esq., where he has had charge for the past thirteen years. We also congratulate Mr. Falconer that he enters a position where he may possibly have greater opportunities to put in practice ideas of gardening which require the space and facilities afforded by a system of large parks. Thus, we consider the combination a happy one, and shall expect the most satisfactory results to the people of Pittsburgh and a richer experience for Mr. Falconer, which the people of the whole country will share through his writings.

#### Helpful Books.

Because we think that reliable information at hand, that is, available when wanted, is always appreciated, we now call attention to the list of books that appears on the third cover page of this issue. They are the best on the subjects of which they treat. Some will need one, some another, some will have use for several of them, but there are two in the list which should be owned by everyone who has a garden, and may be worth many times their cost in one season. These are *The Horticulturists Rule Book* and *The Spraying of Plants*. Do not deprive yourselves of useful books in your line of work. Much of your success may depend upon having them at hand for reference.

\* \*

#### Book Notes.

**THE BOOK OF THE ROSE.** By Rev. A. Foster-Melliar, M. A. Macmillan & Co., New York. Price, \$2.75.

This is a handsome volume of 330 pages with twenty-nine photograph illustrations. The author writes from personal experience, and in his preface in giving his motives for writing the book, says, among other things: "My idea was, in the first place to give, from an amateur, full details for practical culture for amateurs from the beginning to the end. And I ought to be able to do this satisfactorily, even if I have not succeeded, as, under unfavorable conditions of soil and situation, I have done with my own hands every portion of the work, from raising and establishing the stocks to carrying off a champion challenge cup at the Crystal Palace."

We think that all who read the book will conclude that the author has succeeded admirably in what he undertook, and has produced a book of the highest value for the use of amateur rose cultivators. The chapters on Manures, Planting, Pruning and Pests are very instructive, giving desirable details. The chapter entitled *Manners and Customs* is particularly valuable, as it takes up the most prominent varieties of roses and notes their peculiarities, their likes and dislikes, and behavior under different kinds of treatment. Without displacing other excellent treatises on this subject *The Book of the Rose* should have a place in the library of every rosarian.

**PLANT BREEDING.** By L. H. Bailey. Published by Macmillan & Co., New York. Price, \$1.00.

To all those who are interested in the origin of new varieties of plants this volume will prove very acceptable. It deals with the principles of plant variation, and the means by which new varieties are originated, and indicates the practice by which new varieties of fruits and flowers may be produced. The treatment is both scientific and practical, and will enable gardeners and horticulturists to experiment intelligently in cross-breeding. The

subject is fully elaborated and made clear for every intelligent reader.

Professor Bailey's reputation, founded upon careful labor and observation in original investigations, is still further enhanced by the presentation of this excellent manual.

**THE SPRAYING OF PLANTS.** By E. G. Lode-man, of Cornell University. Price, 75 cents.

This is a book for every gardener and every one who has a garden, for every fruit grower and every farmer. The necessity of spraying for a great variety of garden, field and fruit crops is now so generally recognized that a manual on the subject has become a necessity. The destruction of injurious insects and fungi occupies an important place in the operations of gardeners, farmers and fruit growers, and the very careful and elaborate manner in which the subject is treated in this volume is highly creditable to the author, and commends it to the attention of every cultivator.

**WINDOW AND PARLOR GARDENING.** By N. Johnson-Rose, with illustrations by the author. Charles Scribners Sons, New York. Price, \$1.25.

A book of 164 pages, of which the subtitle is: "A Guide for the Selection, Propagation and Care of House Plants."

This is a very excellent manual for the use of everyone who cultivates house plants. The principal points connected with plant culture are very clearly stated, and in such a manner as to enable an easy, practical application of them. The greater portion of the book consists of notes on special plants and classes of plants, giving much information on desirable points, and of a character that is useful and helpful.

\* \*

#### Valuable Bulletins.

The Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station sent out three particularly valuable bulletins in March: No. 38, *Fruit Pests*; No. 39, *Fodder Crops*; No. 41, *Spraying Bulletin*. All are excellent.

# Purify

Your blood now, because this is the time when your blood most needs cleansing. The impurities accumulated in winter must certainly be driven out if you would have good health this Spring and Summer. The blood must be given new vitality if you would have good appetite, perfect digestion and escape that tired feeling. The best Spring Medicine, nerve tonic, appetizer and strength builder, is

# Hood's Sarsaparilla

The One True Blood Purifier. All druggists. \$1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

**Hood's Pills** are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.



### VARIATIONS OF LEAVES ON THE SAME PLANTS.

ORDINARILY the chapter devoted to leaves in the text books deals with their shapes, modifications, or their histology. We are told that leaves are entire, notched, lobed, etc.; that they are variously shaped; that they may be simple, compound or de-compound; also that there are interesting and peculiar modifications, such as the pitcher plant, the Drosera, etc., and in a sort of mechanical way we learn that the various organs of the flowers are "modified leaves." I say we learn this in a sort of mechanical way, for while we memorize the fact we scarcely appreciate the full significance of what it implies. And so instead of saying that leaves are made up generally of three parts—petiole, lamina, stipules, and describing the various shapes, which are already known, I make some statements about the variations of leaves. Not those variations which exist between different species, or different

which pertains more to dollars and cents, to bread and butter?"

I hold that there is nothing in nature which will not elevate one to study. To form, so to speak, close companionships with a few special plants, in some way always enlarges our horizon. So it has been with my observations of the sassafras. I was very much surprised when I first found the four and five lobed leaves. I was driving by an old, wild woods, where one always drives slowly because of the deep sand, (here red sand) and noticed a poor, stunted looking, little tree with curious leaves. I broke off the top of the tree, which was not more than half an inch in diameter, and found some forty of these unusual, four and five lobed leaves on it. My curiosity was excited. What did they mean? A number of times since I have found fine, large specimens of such leaves, but only a single leaf or so on one tree. I have looked up the fossil species, and find almost exact counterparts of these leaves, described, of course,

begonia liked the freeze—took to it like an Esquimaux. Its leaves curled up a bit, and have scarcely grown any since,—it has six in all—but it has four sprays of flowers in bloom and three more in bud. When I go exploring the Arctics I purpose to take some of these begonias along to plant on the icebergs. If there is a very free-flowering Asiatic Calla I think I will obtain a root by and bye. I have a Little Gem Calla, and it is hurrying up—backwards—towards more littleness with all its might. I have a stick stuck in beside it so that when it finally "littles" down out of sight we shall know where it went down. We think it a prairie dog sort of a bush. I have a big calla, the root of which is as large as a man's wrist and a foot long, and has leaves forty inches tall. It has given us one flower, that was pure white at first, but now it is turning green.

Providence, R. I.

S. M. T.

The Everblooming Begonia has thus won another laurel, and its popularity, already great, will be further increased.

It is impossible to account for the behavior of some plants under certain conditions. The many complaints in regard to the Little Gem Calla indicate a weakness—perhaps a constitutional weakness. It is true that it has proved satisfactory in many cases—many such instances have been reported. But the complaints in regard to it are too numerous to allow it to be said that the difficulty is with the growers. Perhaps too rapid multiplica-



groups, even, but the very great variations which we find in the leaves of individual plants. We take it for granted that the leaves of plants must correspond with the botanical descriptions given, but you will be surprised to find how greatly the leaves vary from that given as the typical form. Take the sassafras, for instance, with which you are all doubtless familiar. You have in mind, at the mere mention of the name sassafras, either an entire leaf (Fig. 1) or one with one or two lobes (Figs. 2 and 3). If you spend an hour with the trees in the woods you will be surprised to find how greatly these three types differ among themselves, and now and then you will find a leaf with four or five lobes (Figs. 4 and 5). What does it mean?

I have puzzled over the question a good deal, and it is a very interesting problem to think about. Of course some people may say, "Oh, fie! Why waste time over such a question—what difference does it make whether a leaf has one or two lobes, or whether it is entire? Why not study something more practical—something

as distinct species. Now, when we find so much variation in the leaves of our present species we are led to doubt the claim that this or that tree was represented by many species, in geologic time. If we find typical forms of what are claimed as fossil species, on one and the same tree now, may we not suppose that there was small probability of a very different state of affairs in the past?

Then another query comes up. Can we consider these several types, that we find to-day, as representatives of typical forms of different periods of time?

MRS. W. A. KELLERMAN.

\* \* \*

### SOME NOTICEABLE PLANTS.

A gentleman, of Providence, R. I., writes to James Vick's Sons an account of his plants after a hard freeze, and about some callas. Here is a copy of the letter:

You sent me some months ago a *Begonia semperflorens rosea*. During a sharp frost here, when the thermometer fell to 13° below zero, that begonia was frozen solid, with also the earth in the pot, and a pot close beside it was split in two. It was near a window, and the drop in temperature was unexpected. The morning after the freeze I deluged all the exposed plants with cold water, and most of them pulled through with more or less damage. But the

tion of the plants may be at the foundation of the trouble, and that is frequently mentioned as the cause. If this is the true explanation, even then a suspicion of inherent weakness of the plant will remain. For there is no evidence that the propagation of the plant has been more rapid than that of hundreds of others at the time of their introduction. In reference to the blooming of the Little Gem Calla, of which many are enquiring, it may be as well to say that bloom need not be expected until the plant shows itself to be in a thrifty condition; its health and growth must be the first consideration, and with the maintenance of these bloom, in time, will ensue.

The large calla mentioned in the letter is one of great vegetative force and habit. It is an exceptional plant. If asked why it is an exception, it would be, perhaps, impossible for any one to answer positively and definitely. But when we consider that plants are constantly showing a tendency to variation by buds, bud sports, as they are called, it is not difficult to conceive that the plant in question is such a variation. And, if this explanation be the true one, there is little hope that it will change its course or be more satisfactory as a blooming plant.



### STRAWBERRIES.



WISH every housekeeper had as nice a strawberry bed as I have. I am sure I could wish for nothing better for them, at least during the strawberry season. Those who never have berries, except those bought in the market, have little idea of the real flavor of the fruit. But take the berries when just picked, with the morning dew still on them, and nothing better can be found.

Some man, I have forgotten who, said: "God might, perhaps, have made a better berry, but He never did." The only trouble is, the season is too short; we try our best to overcome that lamentable fact as much as possible by having some very early and very late sorts, besides the main crop, which ripens at the ordinary time. With us the raspberries, which follow them so closely, do not fill their place. It always seems to me that the order should be reversed, so as to have the more tasteless berries come first; then the change would be a welcome one, instead of the opposite.

Our crop from a bed of about three and one-half square rods was 200 quarts—of course many more berries than an ordinary family can use. Our neighbors took just half of them, and I had hard work to keep them from getting the other half whether I wanted to sell or not; and right here let me say that when you can get a chance to buy them of a neighbor, do so by all means. You will pay no more for the berries than you would at the store, and can get them fresh from the vines. I am sure you will get better measure, too.

We always plant a new bed each spring and have many different varieties, thus testing the kinds, so we know what to plant for the main crop the following year. Some of our berries are very large and I once picked five of them that filled a fruit saucer full.

I never can any of them, for the flavor is changed so much in cooking that we never enjoy them. One of my family says if I did not call them strawberries they would taste all right; but when he hears the name and thinks of the lovely fresh fruit, he wants no more canned ones.

I make jams and preserves of a few, but use the most of them fresh in every way I can think of. Indeed, during the strawberry season I cook but little, as none of the family care much for other food while the berries last. We have them three times every day during the season,—but, oh, what a come down it is when they are gone; our appetites fail almost entirely for a few days.

The plain fruit, with bread and butter, or made into shortcake, is, of course, the most common way of using them, but I will give a few other ways of utilizing them, which may be of use to some:

*Strawberry Puff Pudding*—One pint of

flour, two teaspoons baking powder, and a little salt sifted together; mix very soft with sweet milk. Grease several cups, and into each put a tablespoonful of the batter, then one of berries, and then another of batter. Place in a steamer and steam half an hour. Serve with sweetened cream or crushed berries and sugar.

*Strawberry Charlotte*—Make a boiled custard of one quart of milk, yolks of six eggs and three-quarters of a cup of sugar. Fill a large glass dish half full of alternate layers of sponge cake and fresh strawberries. When the custard is cold pour it over the cake and berries. Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth with three tablespoonsful of sugar and spread over the top. It can also be ornamented with some of the largest berries.

*Strawberry Bavarian Cream*—One quart of berries put through a colander, one cup of sugar; add one-half ounce of gelatine that has been soaking in one-fourth cup



WASHINGTON ASTER.

of water for two hours. Set it on the ice while you stir it smooth, and as soon as it begins to set, stir in a cup of whipped cream. Pour into moulds and when ready to serve lay whole berries around it, or cut slices of them to lay over it.

*Strawberry Pie*—Bake an empty under crust and when it is perfectly cold fill with berries; sprinkle thickly with sugar, and pour over all a meringue made from the whites of two eggs and a little sugar. Set in the oven until nicely browned—this will not cook the berries much, so their natural flavor is retained.

*Strawberry Cake*—Bake layers of sponge cake as for any layer cake; for the filling use mashed berries and whipped cream sweetened to taste. The berries need not be mashed fine, but crushed just enough so they will stay in place. Pour the cream over them, add another layer of cake, and so on.

*Strawberry Ice Cream*—One quart of berries mashed in a bowl with one pound of sugar; put through a seive; add one quart of sweet cream and freeze.

*Strawberry Water*—One quart of berries mashed to a pulp, one-quarter pound of sugar and one cup of water. Put through a seive and then strain through a cloth. Then add the juice of a lemon and one and a half pints of water. Set on ice until wanted. Z.

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### EXPERIMENTS WITH ASTERS.

ABOUT a year ago a caller took up a catalogue, and, opening it at random, read the description of the Washington Asters.

"An aster five inches in diameter!" she exclaimed. "Now isn't that ridiculous, why will the seedsmen exaggerate so?"

"Whose catalogue is that?" asked my mother.

"Vick's," was the answer.

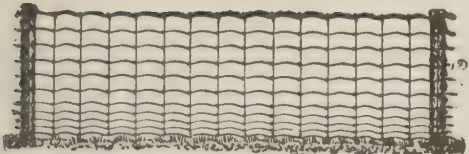
"Well, then, if Vick says asters will grow five inches in diameter they will," said my mother in a tone that admitted no contradiction. She said further: "Vick's was the first flower catalogue that ever fell into my hands, my first order for plants and seeds went to James Vick, for over twenty-five years I purchased of him all that I was able to care for, and I never had reason to complain that anything was misrepresented."

In spite of these warm words of praise we could see that our friend was not convinced; so I resolved to raise some asters five inches in diameter. Two packages of seeds of the Washington Asters were purchased, sown in boxes of soil, in the house, about the middle of March. The little seedlings were transplanted once, about two inches apart. By the first of May they were strong plants, though not very large, they were transplanted into the open ground in beds that had been very carefully prepared by spading in a lot of fine, old manure; the soil was raked and worked over until it was fine and mellow. In one of these beds the asters were transplanted fifteen inches apart each way; in another large bed they were set two feet apart. A cold, wet spell came on about the time they transplanted, and for two weeks they simply refused to grow and looked so forlorn that the family, who had taken much interest in the proceedings, referred to them derisively as "that jungle of asters." But after a time they stopped sulking and went to growing. As they grew they were mulched with fine, old manure, three times in all, during the summer, and as they were within reach of the hose they were kept well watered. Thirty of the plants set fifteen inches apart had every bud removed except the terminal and three or four on the largest branches. The plants set two feet apart were allowed to develop all their buds except the very small ones on the weak sub-branches. The flowers on the plants maturing, only five or six, were extremely large and perfect; one measured six and one-eighth inches in diameter and none were less than four inches. The flowers will rival chrysanthemums in size and beauty, with far less trouble and expense.

Presque Isle, Me.

I. McROSS.





### TURKEY SUBDUED AT LAST.

In spite of the common belief that she could not be restrained, an eastern man raised an immense drove, pent up with PAGE, from the egg to the oven. See picture in "Hustler."

PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Mich.

### A CONTEMPTIBLE LIAR.

Old Prof. Lawrence, of 88 Warren st., New York, the greatest living Specialist in the treatment and cure of Catarrh, is not dead as reported, but will soon retire from active practice on account of old age. From this time on he will send his famous recipe free to all sufferers from Catarrh in any form. This is a great offer which our readers should promptly accept. Address as above.

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SEND the names and full address of all the story readers you know and I will send You a Nice Present, by mail, postage paid.  
E. B. LORD, Box 54, Brooks, Maine.

### METEMPSYCHOSIS.

When Pschye from her harsh task-mistress fled,  
She called on all the gods of earth and sea,  
To give her hiding for her lovely head,  
Lest Venus' weeping captive she might be.

No maid saw Venus as she fled in wrath

The garden through, beneath the ilex trees,  
But when she paused, uncertain of the path,  
A sweet pea nodded careless in the breeze!

A. M. L. HAWES.

\*\*

### EULALIA.

**B**ELIEVING that every yard or lawn of any size would be the more beautiful for the addition of any or all of the tall ornamental grasses called Eulalia, I would speak a word in their favor. Could I but place before my reader a picture of our own home, its long, green slope of hillside set here and there with great clumps of E. Japonica Zebrina that in the late summer stands in its magnificent growth of some eight feet or more, the slender leaves beautifully mottled, its large tassel-like plumes on their slender stems waving gracefully in every breeze, or later, set before you the big lava jar that holds this lovely fruitage of feathery glory inside, safe from the snow and sleet, and the admiration of all—I would need no better argument in its favor. They may well be called "the three graces." Eulalia gracillima univittata, perhaps the more beautiful of the three, has a slender dark green leaf with silvery white mid-rib. Japonica variegata, in somewhat direct contrast, has its markings lengthwise in the leaf, and Japonica zebrina more singular still—mottled and blotched at regular intervals crosswise on the delicate leaves, so that one does not know whether to admire the foliage most or the lovely plumes. Planted singly or in clumps, or used as a hedge plant, of which there is nothing more beautiful, the striking contrast and graceful habit of the plant render it very popular. In the city we see them everywhere on the smoothly shaven lawns. At the Soldier's Home at Dayton, O., they stand upon the borders of the lake, casting their shadowed grace over its placid waters. They like a great deal of water, and if their roots can seek it for themselves they are the more beautiful. Easily transplanted and growing rapidly and, again, easy of division, these plants may be multiplied greatly in a few years. For home use the plumes should be cut just as the little yellow blossom appears upon them, and cut with long stems and cured carefully, that is, stood in a jar so that they may not be crushed into each other. In a few days after cutting they will be totally transformed into objects of a delicate silvery beauty indescribable. They last for years. The plants are very hardy and will winter well without protection, but are the better for it. H. K.

\*\*

### If Baby is Cutting Teeth,

be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.

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**MARCH WINDS.**

Mad winds, glad winds,  
Whither away?  
We are going to scatter the traces  
Of winter in all the by-places,  
To set earth a-smiling,  
And sad hearts beguiling,  
And sweep a clean pathway for spring.

Long winds, strong winds,  
Whither away?  
We are going up to the cloud-bowers,  
To shake down the silver-skinned showers,  
To set the sap flowing,  
And green grass a-growing,  
And burnish anew each bright bird wing.

Lithe winds, blithe winds,  
Whither away?  
We are going to skim the mead over,  
To wake up the cowslips and clover,  
To set all a-quiver  
The reeds by the river,  
And willows that wave by the stream.

Sweet winds, fleet winds,  
Whither away?  
We are going to warm garden closes,  
To wake up the royal red roses,  
To rouse the tall lilies  
And daffo-down-dillies,  
And spicy-breathed pinks from their dream.

DART FAIRTHORNE.

\* \*

**THE CULTURE OF  
ROSES.**

Now that we have so many varieties of roses, teas and hybrid perpetuals, besides the old standard ones, the rose lover has ample scope to indulge in the culture of his favorite flower, for the plants are now so cheap that every one can have at least a few varieties.

Two years ago I received a moss rose, the Comtesse de Murinais, and it has turned out to be a marvel of beauty. The mosses were always favorites with me; one reason is because they are so hardy and grow larger and better every year, and another reason is that the mossy buds and blossoms are so beautiful.

The Clothilde Soupert is one of the very best roses introduced within a few years. It is a very free bloomer, and with protection stands even the cold of our northern winters very well. Now that we have a pink variety, introduced this year, the two will make a marvelously pretty bed. The most beautiful display I ever saw of any one rose was that of the White Clothilde Soupert at the World's Columbian Exposition in the month of June. The large bed was one mass of bloom, and the air was heavy with its delightful perfume.

The very best winter protection for delicate roses that I have yet found is afforded by evergreen branches; the boughs protecting from cold while the aromatic odor prevents the ravages of mice, which, in some localities, is a serious drawback.

The Crimson Rambler is in every way satisfactory—hardy, a rampant grower and free bloomer. I tried it last year, and advise all rose growers to test it.

I am glad to note that the Francisca

Kruger is put in a special collection of summer bloomers this year by Vick. I have grown it for two years and consider it one of the very best, its peculiar color (fawn) making it especially valuable in a collection.

MRS. M. H. FLANDERS.

\* \*

**IMPROVEMENT IN STRAWBERRY  
VARIETIES.**

IN no fruit has the improvement been so great and so rapid as in the strawberry. The best new varieties excel the best old ones in size, attractiveness of color, and ability to stand drought both during plant growth and in the ripening season. Excepting the old Crescent they also excel in productiveness. But a drought at fruiting time which would cut off the Crescent, has little or no effect on the best new kinds, and year by year they will average as large a yield.

The most productive of these is the Parker Earle. But it succeeds only on

**SUPERB PANSIES.**

PANSIES have for many years occupied a large space in my heart and garden. Many new strains have been tested, their name and reputation suggesting rare qualities. One kind in particular, that bears the name of a brilliant and costly gem, was very beautiful, but strange though it may seem, it brought to me only an earnest desire for some still greater achievement with pansies.

Last year I tried a strain that proved "superb" indeed. The seeds were sown in a cold frame the middle of April, and later the plants set in a bed of rich soil exposed to the sun during the forenoon. The last of July they began to yield their treasure. Such large, round, velvety blossoms, such marvellous shading and blending of hues, such luxuriant, dark green, waxy foliage I never saw before.

A premium was offered at our County Fair for the best "twenty-five varieties of pansies with their foliage." I did not hesitate to enter for the prize my purple and gold beauties, and was not in the least surprised that, although there were four competitors, my exhibit was marked by the blue seal denoting the society's first prize. This to a woman—and an amateur—instead of professional florists who had entered the ranks.

Long after the frost king had cut down my other floral treasures, my pansies, though laid low each morning by that icy hand, before the sun set, held up again their smiling faces. This was repeated many times until their brave natures were at last conquered, and they were put to rest under a covering of pine boughs till more congenial elements bring new

life to them.

I do not long for pansies more beautiful than these, but shall again try Vick's Superb Mixture, hoping for as satisfactory results.

L. E. R.

Tewksbury, Mass.

\* \*

**WHEN THE RATHBUN BLACK-  
BERRY RIPENS.**

Inquiry is made in regard to the time of ripening of the Rathbun blackberry compared with the Wilson. The following is Mr. Rathbun's reply:

SMITHS MILLS, March 2, 1896.

The Rathbun begins to ripen here (near Silver Creek, N. Y.) so that we pick the first on the 18th or 19th of July. We consider it one of the earliest, but have not had an opportunity to compare it with the Wilson, as that is not grown in this neighborhood, not being hardy enough to stand our winters; but I think it is not more than a day or two if any ahead.

The Wilson has been tried some in this town, but I think has been abandoned, and from what I can learn of its season I think it is not ahead of ours.

A. F. RATHBUN.

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ROCHESTER, N. Y.

**JAMES VICKS SONS.**

very rich, moist soil, and lacks firmness for very distant shipments.

Lady Thompson has created the greatest stir owing to the high prices it commands on northern markets and the money that has been made on it. I found the berry to be round and large. It stood drought best of all the hundred varieties I grow. So far it is great.

Greenville is the largest productive berry. Woolverton is the firmest large berry.

Woolverton, Tennessee Prolific and Gandy Belle are the best pollenizers for large pistillate varieties. Haverland is a grand pistillate, but too soft to ship far. Enormous, Mary, Holland, Splendid and Beecher are reliably reported to be of the largest size. Not fruited here yet.

Warfield will not pay south. Beder Wood is an excellent early variety.

O. W. BLACKNALL.

Kittrell, N. C.



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LITTLE GEM CALLA.


IN the January number of the magazine J. C. asks what to do with the Little Gem Calla. I have had one about two years, which has given good satisfaction. Possibly because it is kept in the greenhouse; but to do well it requires rest in the summer. A year ago this winter mine bloomed several times, but being small it produced only one or two blooms at one time. This winter it is also thriving finely. Last June I put the pot containing the calla on the north side of the house, laying it down under a clump of day lilies, giving it no further attention until September, when I brought it in, turned it out of the pot, took off most of the old soil, leaving on all the bulblets, and then repotted it in a seven-inch pot in soil composed of one-fourth good garden loam, one-fourth sharp sand, and one-half thoroughly rotted, well pulverized barn manure. After growth is well started I water nearly every day with very hot water and once a week with manure water. No plant could do better. The growth is sturdy and thrifty and certainly very satisfactory.

MRS. H. B. PALMER, Buffalo, N. Y.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

A large and partially unexplored region north of the Province of Quebec and between the head waters of the Ottawa River and James Bay, the southern part of Hudson's Bay, has recently been the scene of a notable discovery by Professor Bell, of the Canada Geological Survey. During his explorations last summer he traced the course of a large river, hitherto unknown, which drains the region to the southeast of James Bay. The river is larger than the Ottawa, and a great part of it averages a mile in width. The country drained by it is level or gently undulating, and may be generally described as a plateau of one thousand feet above the sea level along the height of land, diminishing to some four hundred feet at one hundred miles or so from the mouth of the river, and then descending more rapidly to the shore of James Bay. The soil is sandy in the vicinity of the height of land and for some distance beyond, but of brownish clay along the banks of the river and in the forests. The country is well wooded, and is fitted to be the home of a large population.—From "A Review of Canadian Affairs," by J. W. Russell, in the March Review of Reviews.

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I suffered for years with uterine troubles, painful periods, leucorrhoea, displacements, and other irregularities, and finally found a simple, safe home treatment, that cured me without the aid of medical attendance. This is no quack doctor's medicine; but nature's own remedy for women. It costs nothing to convince yourself of its merits, for I send it free with full instructions to every suffering woman. Address, MRS. L. HUDNUT—South Bend, Ind.

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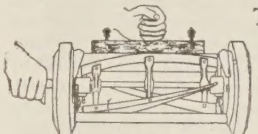
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These diseases. The first is what diphtheria is to human beings, and closely allied to that disease. Symptoms are, sneezing like a cold; slight watering of the eyes; running at the nostrils, severe inflammation in the throat, canker, swollen head and eruptions on head and face. A breeder of fighting game fowl which from their habits, are more liable to roup than others, gives us a TREATMENT, which he says is a **Positively Sure Cure for the**

# ROUP

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Space here will not permit giving his full directions for use. Send to us for full particulars, by mail, free. It also cures all Bowel Complaints, Leg Weakness and Rheumatic Lameness like magic. Sold everywhere. Price, 35c., 6 bottles, \$2.00. Express paid. Pamphlet free. L. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

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**THE BLACKBERRY TENDER FROM SUMMER TREATMENT.**

At the last annual meeting of the Michigan Horticultural Society a valuable paper on the cultivation of the blackberry was read by Mr. R. M. Kellogg. It is the common practice to stop cultivation of the plants when fruit picking commences, the understanding being that the canes will then ripen and harden better than if the working of the soil is continued. Mr. K. shows very conclusively that such practice is wrong, and that cultivation should go on until the crop is harvested. Here follows what he has to say on this subject:

"The two chief difficulties in blackberry culture are the drought and winter-killing. These may be reduced to one difficulty because the management during the summer is often the chief cause of winter-killing. Every possible effort should be made to force a vigorous growth early in the spring, and this should proceed regularly until fall rains come, when the autumn months should be used to mature the wood. The cultivator should be kept going as soon as dry enough in the spring and the priceless water should not be allowed to get away. The whole surface should be covered with a fine, loose earth all the time and a crust should not be allowed to remain a moment longer than necessary. Cultivate every week and after every rain.

"It is the greatest blunder to stop the cultivator when picking begins, just when the bushes need moisture so much to fill their great loads of berries with their rich juices. The feet of the pickers tramp the ground down hard and capillarity is perfect to the surface and water passes off with the greatest freedom. The berries soon dry up and the vitality of the bush is sapped by having its functions suspended in hot weather. The plant goes through the same process as if preparing for winter, buds form and foliage ripens. Later, the fall rains come and a new growth starts and the early frosts destroy the leaves, rendering the ripening of the wood an impossibility and winter-killing is sure to follow."

\* \*

**MOIST AIR FOR HOUSE PLANTS.**

We moved our winter plants into our winter dining room, which has two windows on the east, and is never very hot; there is a register admitting warm air from the furnace that is in the front cellar. My plants did not do very well until I put a pan of water, in which I keep some charcoal, on the register. They soon showed, by improved appearance, that they liked the moisture given off by evaporation.

Covington, Ky.

Mrs. M. J. S.

**A CHILD Can Dye with Diamond Dyes!**



These economical Dyes for house use are so easy to use that any one who can read the simple directions on the packages will be able to do as good work as the professional dyer. There are 50 different kinds of Diamond Dyes for wool, silk, cotton, and mixed goods. Ten cents buys a package that colors from one to six pounds. Direction book for successful home dyeing and 45 colored samples mailed free.

WELLS, RICHARDSON & Co., Burlington, Vt.

**SEED DISTRIBUTION BY THE GOVERNMENT.**

IT is a pleasure to know that Secretary Morton of the Agricultural Department has stamina enough to remain firm in his refusal to expend the public money devoted to the purchase of seeds for free distribution, for the reason that seeds "rare and uncommon to the country" cannot be purchased in any considerable quantities, and that a distribution of the well-known standard varieties will not, in any especial manner, "promote the general interests of horticulture and agriculture throughout the United States."

It is plain that the intention of the law when passed was to procure from foreign countries such seeds, trees, plants, shrubs, vines and cuttings not raised here, and which might be supposed to be of particular value when tested in this country. Since the passage of the law agricultural and horticultural interests have developed a thousand fold, but without any connection with the operations of the law. In fact, it would be difficult to point to any important valuable result arising directly from the introduction by the government of seeds or plants.

The enterprising seedsmen and nurserymen of the country obtain every valuable novelty long before it is brought to the notice of the government seed bureau. But more than this, all the principal seedsmen are acquainted with many wasteful and unbusinesslike transactions, in the past, of the government agents in procuring seeds. The worthless character of the seeds sent out by the department for years past has become so well known that no intelligent and self-respecting farmer or gardener would give them ground to cover them. Secretary Morton is conforming strictly to the law in refusing to make purchases of seeds except in accordance with the terms of the statute, and the press of the country generally, as well as the common sense of the people, will approve his course. Over two and a half millions of dollars have been squandered by the seed appropriations of congress in the last twenty years, and it is time the farce was played out.

\* \*

**POTATO CULTURE.**

For the western states where the rainfall is not sufficient to make a crop of potatoes one year with another, I will give you my method. Just as soon in the spring as danger of frost is over, take a lister and set your subsoiler deep to loosen up the ground, mark your rows just as you would for corn, only deeper, then drop your potatoes in the lister rows on the loose ground made by the subsoiler; then take your two-horse cultivator, take off the two outside shovels, and go over the rows and just take enough dirt from the edge of the rows to cover the potatoes the right depth,

leaving the lister rows open all you can. After the potatoes come up cultivate often to kill the weeds, but manage so your rows will be level when you cultivate them the last time. In planting potatoes this way the water will all stay in the rows where most needed, and you will be surprised when you dig them in the fall.—J. Y. Eckman in the *Western Rural*.

\* \*

The Des Moines Incubator Company have not only put the hen to shame, but have been successful in winning in competition with other incubators this fall, premiums and medals of special worth, notably at the Mid-Continental Poultry Show, held at Kansas City, November 27 to December 5, 1895; three in competition with America's leading incubators, some of them claiming never to have been defeated in a show. The Successful were declared the victors, receiving first premium and medal. One special advantageous point about the Successful is the simplicity of their egg-turning device. They do not have to take the eggs out of the incubator to turn them.

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An excellent collection of the latest college songs and glees, as sung by the Glee Club and students of Columbia College, New York city. All the charms which have made the success of preceding volumes of college songs possible are to be found in this collection. Handsomely printed, with cover in blue and white. Price, \$1.00, postpaid.

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**PLANTING SMALL FRUITS.**

All through the Northern and Middle States the planting of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and other small fruits will mostly be done this month. The sooner the plants can be got in after the ground is properly prepared, the better it will be for them. A vigorous growth often depends in a great degree upon early planting. Do not be afraid of working the soil too deep or of making it too rich. If neglected in either of these respects the crop will show it, and it will be difficult afterwards to apply a remedy.

**1,000 Peach Trees With Freight Prepaid** to any station east of the Mississippi river, 2 to 3 ft. for \$25. Other sizes in proportion. List of varieties or samples sent on request.  
R. S. JOHNSTON, Box 22, Stockley, Del.



**696** New Sample styles of Envelope Silk Fringe CARDS, etc., 20 New Songs, 100 Rich and Racy Jokes, 1 pack Escort Cards, 1 pack Fun Cards, 1 pack Acquaintance Cards and Standard Bean Catcher. ALL for 2 CENTS. CHAMPION CARD WORKS, UNIONVALE, OHIO

**BOYS WANTED** everywhere to sell our paper. We send papers without money with full instructions for selling. **NO MONEY TO INVEST. NO RISK. GOOD PAY** THE NEW YORK WEEKLY RECORDER, New York.

**MEN AND WOMEN**

Taught to make **Crayon Portraits** in spare hours at their homes by a new copyrighted method. Those learning my method will be furnished work by me, by which they can **EARN \$8 TO \$16 A WEEK.** particulars **H. A. GRIPP, German Artist, Tyrone, Pa.**

**LE RÈVE, Cologne Condensed Extract**, is undoubtedly the best and most fragrant perfume made in France. We are the only importers, and are now ready to fill orders from perfumers & agents. Samples for 1-2 quart of cologne sent post-paid on receipt of 25 cts. (Stamps). **E. LEMARIE, Little Ferry, N. J.**

**FREE** Cut this out and send to-day for free catalogue. \$2.75 buys natural finish Baby Carriage with plated steel wheels, axle, springs, one piece bent handle. 3 years guarantee. Carriages sent on 10 DAYS FREE TRIAL. BUY FROM FACTORY & SAVE DEALERS' PROFITS. **OXFORD MDSE. CO., 340 Wabash Ave., CHICAGO.**

**CASH PAID...** for your neighbors' addresses; also newspaper clippings \$20 per M. Send stamp. . . . .  
**ADV. CLIPPING BUREAU,** Mahler Block, New York.

**FREE SPRAY PUMP** to one person in each place. We mean it. If you mean business and want agency send 10c. We will send a complete pump that will do the work of a \$10 spray. **A. SPEIRS, B North Windham, Maine.**

**"RUINED BY DRINK."** My son's health and business was being ruined by drink, when I came across an old recipe that entirely cured him. Friend, I will send you the recipe free; it can be given secretly if desired. Address, **Mrs. S. O. DECKER, 72 Charles street, New York City.**

**ANIDROSIS BATHS.** The sovereign remedy for **Rheumatism and all diseases of the Liver, Kidneys or Skin.** Will sell Family or Office Outfits or Right of Territory. **Dr. S. F. CONANT, SKOWHEGAN, MAINE.**

**A SPRAYER \$2.50** Express Prepaid. **THE COMET** Sprays from bucket or barrel 50 feet. Double Acting made on new scientific and mechanical principles. Send for free catalogue which will make it plain to you that I have the sprayer you want. **H. B. RUSLER, Johnstown, Ohio, U. S. A.**

**ACHILLEA, THE PEARL.**

**W**HY is it when so much is said and written of our beautiful annuals, so few writers seem to realize the equal beauty and greater desirability of many of our hardy perennials? Among these, all things considered, there are few more entirely satisfactory than Achillea, The Pearl. For the border it is one of the very best white flowered plants, and once planted will reward us with its beautiful blossoms year after year. It is a low-growing plant, but the flowers are borne on strong, erect stems and in such rich profusion that from a short distance a plant of this achillea looks like a solid mass of pure white. The flowers are very double and perfect in form, resembling quite strongly the Chrysanthemum inodorum plenissimum, and equally like a daisy.

Often and often, last summer, my attention was drawn to the garden fence by two or three old, or middle-aged women stopping outside to admire my beautiful "daisies," as they called the flower of the achillea, and strange to say those snow-white, modest flowers seemed to afford them vastly more pleasure than all the other beauties in my garden, despite the brilliant, satiny robes many of them flaunted.

I purchased two of these achilleas last June; they looked quite dead when they arrived, and this, together with the fact that it was late in the season, led me to believe they would be of little use. However, they were planted in the border, just in time to be benefited by several days' rain, and began to grow immediately. In a little more than a month they were in full bloom. For bouquets they are really beautiful, either by themselves or mixed among other flowers, and for a cemetery or grave their pure white loveliness makes them eminently suitable. I would strongly advise all who grow flowers in the garden to plant at least two of these lovely achilleas this spring or summer, if they do not already number it among their floral treasures.

Mrs. S. H. SNIDER.

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**NEW MONEY-MAKING INVENTION.**

Dear Reader—I met a friend selling a new case for attaching photographs to tombstones so they are imperishable and last forever. Being out of employment, I ordered two dozen from the World Mfg. Co., Columbus, O., who manufacture many good selling articles for agents. I sold twelve the first day, profit \$18. Every family has photographs. Anyone can put one on the monument in five minutes. The case is elegant, made of aluminum, the new metal. Every family is glad of a chance to buy. They are beautiful, and yet so cheap. I made \$67 in one week, \$186 last month. You can do something by writing.  
**C. B. SNOW.**

**CIRCULATION MANAGER WANTED...**

Address E. Y. LORD, Brooks, Maine.

Strictly on Salary. Lady or Gentleman. No experience or capital necessary. Must be well recommended. Every State and county must be represented at once.



**CARDS** See our fine Sample Book of HIDDEN NAME Silk Fringe and Calling Cards for **1896** also the Union Beau Catcher, Boston Buster & Love Cards, with Agent's full outfit, ALL for a 2c. Stamp. **BUCKEYE CARD CO., LACEYVILLE, OHIO.**



**600 SECOND-HAND BICYCLES**

All MAKES and MODELS, must be closed out. Agents wanted. Send for descriptive bargain lists. **A. Z. MEAD CYCLE CO., 287 Wabash-Av, CHICAGO.**



**FREE** trial in your home. Cut this out and send for catalogue. Prices to suit you. Oxford Sewing Machines awarded World's Fair Medal. DOES WHAT ANY WILL DO. FULL SET OF ATTACHMENTS. TEN YEAR GUARANTEE. FREIGHT PAID. ADDRESS **OXFORD MDSE. CO., 340 Wabash Ave., CHICAGO.**



**GREIDER'S NEW CATALOGUE**

FOR 1896. Finer and larger than ever, the finest engravings of poultry, with descriptions of each variety, best plans for poultry houses, how to raise broilers, caring of fowls, remedies for all diseases, best lice destroyer, prices of eggs and stock from high scoring birds, send 10 cents for this noted book which will be deducted from first order. Address, **B. H. GREIDER, FLORIN, PA., U. S. A.**

**ARNICA TOOTH SOAP**

Delicious—Cleansing—Harmless Others Imitate—None Equal **25c.** All druggists or by mail. **C. H. STRONG & CO. Chicago.**

**FENCING**

For **HOGS, POULTRY,** and all fence purposes. **McMULLEN'S** Standard Fencing of U.S. Thousands of Miles in Use. Always gives satisfaction. Sold by dealers. Freight paid. Take no other. Catalogue free. **McMULLEN WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., CHICAGO, ILL.**

**THE BEST POULTRY PAPER.**

It is edited by men who devote their time to raising poultry and eggs for market upon farms and in the garden plats of the suburbs of large towns. **FARM-POULTRY** IS COVERING ITSELF WITH GLORY. Thus the Philadelphia Farm Journal says of it. It teaches **How to Make Money with A FEW HENS.** How To Prevent and Cure all poultry diseases. How To Bring pullets to early laying maturity. How To Build the very best houses and yards. How To Keep your poultry free from vermin. How To Hatch strong chickens in incubators. How To Make hens lay when prices are highest. How To Caponize, dress and market poultry. Remember the price. One year \$1. Sample free. One department "Answers to Correspondents." is worth ten times the subscription price. **I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 26 Custom House St., Boston.**

**HOW TO MAKE**

**WOMEN BEAUTIFUL**

Many women with fair faces are deficient in beauty owing to undeveloped figures, flat busts, etc., which can be remedied by the use of **ADIPO-MALENE.** It is impossible to give a full description in an advertisement; send 6c. in stamps and a descriptive circular, with testimonials, will be sent by return mail.

**ADIPO-MALENE.** L. E. MARSH & CO., Madison Sq., Philadelphia, Pa. When writing to advertisers, mention Vick's Magazine.

**HALE PLUM, TRIUMPH PEACH, BOUNCER STRAWBERRY**

and all other best fruits from Hale, who makes more money in fruit culture than any man in America. Free book, tells whole story, no secrets. Address **HALE, South Glastonbury, CONN.**



SOME GOOD VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES.

WE have found Old Homestead to be a splendid pole bean, repaying us well for the extra work of putting up poles. Giant Wax is a favorite kind, too, and though not as early it kept in bearing longer. Both kinds bear large, well filled pods that keep tender until nearly ripe. Yosemite Wax is a grand bunch bean, and where the season is favorable it does very well indeed.

We have tried several varieties of cabbage and find that we can rely on Early Wakefield for early use, and Filderkraut for late, later, and latest, as it is sure to head and may be used earlier than other late varieties, as the heads are solid all the time. We had Improved Danish Ballhead for the first time last season; were well pleased with it. It promises to become one of our favorite varieties.

Vick's Charmer Pea gave good satisfaction. We have depended on Vick's Extra Early for early use, and Bliss' Everbearing for late. By making two plantings of this variety we have it to come in bearing when the early peas are through, and we have had them as late as October, so we think they deserve the name of Everbearing. Horsford's Market Garden is also an excellent variety.

By the way, I would suggest that Bliss' Everbearing be planted in hills—three or more peas in a hill, (the peas four to six inches apart) the hills two or two and one-half feet apart each way. It is so much easier to gather the peas, and we think it easier to cultivate them, too.

A good, heavy mulch of old straw, packed close to the plants, about the time they come into bloom, is a great help in dry seasons. We found that beans, peas, corn, musk melons and squashes were all benefited by a straw mulch, which was deep enough to keep the ground moist and cool.

Two vegetables that seem to be not very well known here have attracted much attention in our garden. They are Kohl Rabi and Swiss Chard. Of the former, Early White and Early Purple Vienna are both nice; they grow quickly and are ready for use before we think about them. The only fault we find with Kohl Rabi is, that like early turnips and radishes, it becomes pithy, and to keep up a supply several plantings must be made. We prize this vegetable for table use. It is much like turnips in taste, but more delicately flavored. Swiss Chard is highly ornamental and would be worth raising if it were not good to eat. We have tried Large Ribbed Silver and Large Ribbed Yellow Brazillian, and we like both kinds. Last season there was one plant with bright crimson stalks. We did not know whether it was a sport or an accidentally mixed seed, but pronounced it very handsome anyway,

Cheney, Wash. SUSAN TUCKER.

A WARNING.—Make ready! In time of peace prepare for war! Short time is now left to the gardener and fruit grower to make preparations for defense against the insect and fungous enemies sure to arrive with warmer weather.

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Vick's Floral Guide For '96.

The Pioneer Seed Catalogue sent for 10 cents, which may be deducted from first order—really FREE. JAMES VICK'S SONS, Rochester, N. Y.

Duplex Safety Saddle advertisement. Includes an illustration of the saddle and a spring mechanism. Text: 'Duplex Safety Saddle', 'Cushioned with Felt and then Covered with Leather', 'Shaped to Fit the Body', 'It Yields Most in the Center. Under Weight of Rider it Hollows out like a Chair. No Pressure on Sensitive Parts of the Body.', 'The Spring is the Secret', 'Sent prepaid on receipt of price, \$4 Illustrated Circular Free', 'DUPLEX SADDLE CO.', '200 South Clinton St., CHICAGO, ILL.'

Columbia Bicycles advertisement. Large text: '10 times out of 10'. Text: 'The New York Journal recently offered ten bicycles to the ten winners in a guessing contest, leaving the choice of machines to each. All of them chose COLUMBIA BICYCLES. Nine immediately, and one after he had looked at others. And the Journal bought ten Columbias. Paid \$100 each for them. On even terms a Columbia will be chosen TEN times out of TEN'. Includes an illustration of a Columbia bicycle. Text: '1896 Art Catalogue free from the Columbia agent; by mail for two 2-cent stamps. POPE MFG. CO., Hartford, Conn.'

Payne's Portfolio of Plans advertisement. Includes an illustration of a large house. Text: 'If you intend to build it, will pay you to have PAYNE'S PORTFOLIO OF PLANS. Pages 9 x 12 inches. A most practical book for prospective builders. Contains about 100 plans of Modern Homes actually erected, in various localities. Photographic and perspective views, interiors and complete description. Actual costs in locality where built. Owner's name and testimonials, and practical suggestions for the economical building of Modern Homes. Price \$1.00 postpaid. Illustrated circular and testimonials free. Small pamphlet of 30 designs 25 cts. Address VICKS MAGAZINE, Rochester, N. Y.'